

Serial No.: 10/591,438
Atty. Docket No.: P71416US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

24. (New) An ostomy system for receiving bodily waste, comprising:

a gas impermeable outer bag;

a water impermeable inner bag enclosed within the outer bag;

a coupling system for attaching the bag to the body of a patient and for securing the inner bag in relation to the patient's body and for securing the outer bag in relation to the inner bag, the coupling system defining an orifice to enable bodily waste from a stoma to be received by the inner bag, said coupling system including,

a body flange configured to be attached to the patient's body, the body flange defining a central opening with an inwardly facing rim portion;

an outer flange defining a central opening with an inwardly facing rim portion; and

a barrier for preventing liquids and solid particles from passing from the inner bag to the outer bag, at least part of said barrier being permeable to flatus gases, said barrier being in the form of a ring-shaped member defining a central opening with an inwardly facing rim portion, said ring-shaped barrier being sandwiched between the body flange and the outer flange such that the respective radially inwardly facing rim portions of the body flange, the barrier and the outer flange define a boundary of the orifice so that the flatus gases enter the barrier through the radially inwardly facing rim portion thereof; and

the inner bag being sealed to an outer surface of the outer flange so that flatus gases may only escape from the inner bag through the barrier, and the gas impermeable outer bag being arranged such that flatus gases escaping the inner bag through the barrier enter the outer bag, said outer bag including an outlet with a flatus filter for releasing flatus gases from the outer bag to the environment.

25. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 24, wherein the inner bag is impermeable to flatus gases.

26. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 24, wherein the barrier includes a gas permeable foam.

27. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 24, wherein the barrier includes a gas permeable membrane.

28. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 24, wherein the barrier is configured to force the flow of flatus gases in the barrier along a predetermined flow path.

29. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 24, wherein the inner bag is of a structure which essentially maintains its physical integrity upon immersion in water.

30. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 24, wherein the barrier includes a foam, at least an outer surface of which is provided with a gas-impermeable surface layer;

the inner bag being sealed to the outer surface of the surface layer, so that a first portion of the outer surface of the coated barrier faces the interior of the inner bag, and so that a second portion of the outer surface of the coated barrier faces the exterior of the inner bag;

the surface layer including at least one perforation allowing flatus gases to enter the barrier at the first portion thereof and to exit the barrier at the second portion thereof, whereby flatus gases may escape from the inner bag;

the outer bag being arranged such that flatus gases escaping the inner bag through the barrier enter the outer bag.

31. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 30, wherein said at least one perforation is provided as a non-coated outer surface portion of the barrier which extends partially into said first portion of the outer surface of the barrier and partially into said second portion.

32. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 30, wherein said at least one perforation is provided as a plurality of distinct perforations, at least one of which is provided at said first portion of the outer surface of the barrier, and at least another one of which is provided at said second portion.

33. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 32, wherein the perforation at said first portion of the outer surface of the barrier is angularly displaced with respect to the perforation at

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said second portion, the barrier including a partial obstruction to flatus gases that is arranged between the perforation in the first portion and the perforation in the second portion, so that flatus gases are conveyable in one and only one angular direction between said perforations.

34. (New) An ostomy system for receiving bodily waste, comprising:

a gas impermeable outer bag;
a water impermeable inner bag enclosed within the outer bag;
a coupling system defining an orifice to enable bodily waste from a stoma to be received by the inner bag, said coupling system including a body flange configured to be attached to the patient's body and having a central opening with an inwardly facing rim portion, an outer flange having a central opening with an inwardly facing rim portion, and a ring-shaped barrier member having a central opening with an inwardly facing rim portion, said barrier member having at least a part thereof that is permeable to flatus gases and being sandwiched between the body flange and the outer flange to prevent liquids and solid particles from passing from the inner bag to the outer bag, the respective radially

inwardly facing rim portions of the body flange, the barrier and the outer flange defining a boundary of the orifice so that the flatus gases enter the barrier through the radially inwardly facing rim portion thereof; and

the inner bag being sealed to the outer flange so that flatus gases may only escape from the inner bag through the barrier, and the gas impermeable outer bag being arranged such that flatus gases escaping the inner bag through the barrier enter the outer bag and exit therefrom through a filtered outlet in said outer bag.

35. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 34, wherein the inner bag is impermeable to flatus gases.

36. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 34, wherein the barrier includes a gas permeable foam.

37. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 34, wherein the barrier includes a gas permeable membrane.

38. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 34, wherein the barrier is configured to force the flow of flatus gases in the barrier along a predetermined flow path.

39. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 34, wherein the inner bag is of a structure which essentially maintains its physical integrity upon immersion in water.

40. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 34, wherein the barrier includes a foam, at least an outer surface of which is provided with a gas-impermeable surface layer;

the inner bag being sealed to the outer surface of the surface layer, so that a first portion of the outer surface of the coated barrier faces the interior of the inner bag, and so that a second portion of the outer surface of the coated barrier faces the exterior of the inner bag;

the surface layer including at least one perforation allowing flatus gases to enter the barrier at the first portion thereof and to exit the barrier at the second portion thereof, whereby flatus gases may escape from the inner bag;

the outer bag being arranged such that flatus gases escaping the inner bag through the barrier enter the outer bag.

41. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 40, wherein said at least one perforation is provided as a non-coated outer surface portion of the barrier which extends partially into said first portion of the outer surface of the barrier and partially into said second portion.

42. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 40, wherein said at least one perforation is provided as a plurality of distinct perforations, at least one of which is provided at said first portion of the outer surface of the barrier, and at least another one of which is provided at said second portion.

43. (New) The ostomy system according to claim 42, wherein the perforation at said first portion of the outer surface of the barrier is angularly displaced with respect to the perforation at said second portion, the barrier including a partial obstruction to flatus gases that is arranged between the perforation in the first portion and the perforation in the second portion, so that flatus gases are conveyable in one and only one angular direction between said perforations.